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Belfast, March 5, 1839.

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**XXIII.—*On a Meteoric Paper which fell from the Sky in the year 1686 in Courland, composed of Confervæ and Infusoria.***

By Prof. EHRENBURG of Berlin\*.

ON the 31st January 1687, a great mass of a paper-like black substance fell with a violent snow-storm from the atmosphere near the village of Rauden in Courland ; it was seen to fall, and after dinner was found at places where the labourers at work had seen nothing similar before dinner. This meteoric substance, described completely and figured in 1686, 1688, was recently again considered by M. v. Grotthus, after a chemical analysis, to be a meteoric mass ; but M. v. Berzelius, who also analysed it, could not discover the nickel said to be contained in it ; and Von Grotthus then revoked his opinion. It is mentioned in Chladni's work on Meteors, and noticed as an aërophyte in Nees von Esenbeck's valuable Appendix to R. Brown's 'Botan. Schriften.' I examined this substance, some of which is contained in the Berlin Museum (also in Chladni's collection) microscopically. I found the whole to consist evidently of a compactly matted mass of *Confervæ crispata*, traces of a *Nostoc*, and of about twenty-nine well-preserved species of

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